



# Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 25 September 2003

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



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[www.whitehouse.gov/homeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

## Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports the FBI is investigating the discovery of several suspicious devices placed inside a Michigan water-bottling plant's pumping station. (See item [13](#))
- The Mercury News reports Bay Area researchers are especially concerned that the Animal Liberation Brigade, which claimed responsibility for the Chiron bombing, might be targeting the homes of biotech workers. (See item [15](#))
- CBS News reports the U.S. State Department's electronic system for checking every visa applicant for terrorist or criminal history failed worldwide for several hours late September 23, because of the "Welchia" computer virus. (See item [21](#))

### DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

**Production Industries:** [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels:** Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *September 24, Reuters* — Susquehanna nuclear plant shuts down. PPL Corp. said on Wednesday, September 24, that a unit at its Susquehanna nuclear power plant automatically shut down when one of three pumps that supply water to its reactor stopped working. The loss of the feedwater pump caused the water level in the Unit 1 reactor to drop, causing a full shutdown of the unit at 12:53 a.m. The plant is located in Luzerne County near Berwick, PA. "The plant's systems worked properly during the shutdown

and the unit is stable," said Herbert Woodeshick, special assistant to the president for PPL Susquehanna, in a statement. **"PPL has begun an investigation to better understand why the shutdown occurred.** When that is complete, we will restart the unit." The plant's Unit 2 reactor continues to operate at 100 percent power.

Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/030924/energy\\_ppl\\_shutdown\\_1.html](http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/030924/energy_ppl_shutdown_1.html)

2. *September 24, Associated Press* — **Peach Bottom nuclear plant is back online.** The Peach Bottom nuclear power plant, located in York County, PA, is providing power to homes and businesses again after an eight-day shutdown, the plant's operator said Wednesday, September 24. **A disturbance on the power grid caused both reactors to automatically shut down early on the morning of Monday, September 15.** Exelon Nuclear, which operates the facility, said one of the reactors was reconnected to the grid just before 6 a.m. Tuesday, September 23. The other reactor remained off-line for a scheduled refueling shutdown. **Officials at PJM Interconnection, the company that operates the power grid, have been investigating the grid disturbance.**

Source: <http://www.pennlive.com/newsflash/pa/index.ssf?/base/news-7/1064419453190311.xml>

3. *September 24, Associated Press* — **Firefighters battle blaze at substation.** Firefighters battled a transformer fire fueled by mineral oil at a CenterPoint Energy substation in Houston, TX, on Wednesday, September 24, but no injuries or evacuations were reported. **CenterPoint spokesperson Alicia Dixon said the transformer was filled with thousands of gallons of mineral oil, fueling the blaze that broke out sometime after 9 a.m. Wednesday. The cause wasn't immediately clear and such substations are not typically manned, she said.** Firefighters extinguished the fire within three hours, using water and foam. Mineral oil decreases or increases the voltage of electricity that travels through the transformer. Dixon said the substations have fire walls to prevent fires from spreading and are "like a breaker box in a back yard that steps down electricity that is being transported by the power plants to go to the distribution lines which are a lower voltage." No power outages were reported.

Source: <http://www.dfw.com/mld/startelegram/news/state/6849840.htm>

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## **Chemical Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

4. *September 24, San Diego Union-Tribune (CA)* — **Navy leaks oily water into bay.** Up to 2,000 gallons of oily waste water leaked into California's San Diego Bay on Tuesday, September 23, from a pipeline at the 32nd Street Naval Station, officials said. The leak was reported to the state Office of Emergency Services about 1:30 p.m. The Coast Guard and state Fish and Game Department also were notified. The spill was contained within a floating barrier and cleanup efforts continued into the night, a Navy spokesperson said. **The leak occurred as**

crews were pumping oily bilge water from a Navy ship docked at Pier 10, said base public affairs officer Sam Samuelson. "Something went wrong and the system was overwhelmed," Samuelson said. The cause of the leak was still under investigation, Samuelson said.

Source: [http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/military/20030924-9999\\_6m\\_24spill.html](http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/military/20030924-9999_6m_24spill.html)

5. *September 24, Associated Press* — **Navy contractor workers charged with immigration violations.** A dozen employees of a Navy contractor who have access to military installations and vessels were arrested Tuesday, September 23, on immigration charges, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement said. The suspects worked in San Diego, CA, for Southwest Marine Inc., which maintains and repairs Navy ships at six sites nationwide, the bureau said. Their jobs included welding, mechanics and painting. **They either lacked proper immigration records or were legal residents with prior criminal convictions, the bureau said. Most presented false documents as proof of eligibility to work or used someone else's valid immigration documents.** "People who have access to these types of facilities – particularly those who work around weapons, ammunition and classified material – must be worthy of the trust the public places in them," said Michael Turner, special agent in charge of the bureau in San Diego. **The arrests followed a three-month investigation of Southwest Marine, which employs about 3,500 people, including 1,100 in San Diego. As part of its probe, immigration officials reviewed employment records of about 1,000 employees.**

Source: <http://www.bayarea.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/6845238.htm>

6. *September 23, Government Accounting Office* — **Report-GAO-03-600: Missile Defense: Additional Knowledge Needed in Developing System for Intercepting Long-Range Missiles.** A number of countries hostile to the United States and its allies have or will soon have missiles capable of delivering nuclear, biological, chemical weapons. To counter this threat, the Department of Defense's (DoD's) Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is developing a system to defeat ballistic missiles. MDA expects to spend \$50 billion over the next five years to develop and field this system. A significant portion of these funds will be invested in the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) element. To field elements as soon as practicable, MDA has adopted an acquisition strategy whereby capabilities are upgraded as new technologies become available and is implementing it in two-year blocks. Given the risks inherent to this strategy, **GAO was asked to determine when MDA plans to demonstrate the maturity of technologies critical to the performance of GMD's Block 2004 capability and to identify the estimated costs to develop and field the GMD element and any significant risks with the estimate.** GAO is recommending DoD (1) explore options to demonstrate effectiveness of the Cobra Dane radar and (2) establish procedures to help ensure data are reliable from MDA's monitoring system.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d03600.pdf>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## Transportation Sector

7. *September 24, Associated Press* — **Report says U.S. aviation needs overhaul. Major improvements to aircraft are needed for the U.S. air transportation system to get where it needs to go in the next 35 years, according to a report by the National Research Council, released Tuesday. The whole system, in fact, needs an overhaul if it is to meet a doubling of demand for air transportation, said the report.** Cleaner, quieter aircraft are keys to increasing the system's capacity, the report said. The council recommended investments in improved aircraft design and new propulsion technologies, such as hydrogen fuel and advanced fuel cells. "Business as usual, in the form of continued, evolutionary improvements to existing technologies, aircraft, air traffic control systems and operational concepts, is unlikely to meet the needs for air transportation that will emerge over the next 25 to 50 years," said the report, which was sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration. **In addition, the report said the United States ignores an important goal for civil aeronautics that Europe recognizes: satisfaction of consumer needs.** "This could be a major oversight, given the large role that consumer demand for low cost and convenience (e.g., frequent departures) plays in business decisions made by industry," the report said.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/TRAVEL/09/24/aviation.future.ap/index.html>

8. *September 24, U.S. Newswire* — **TSA reimburses airlines for reinforcing cockpit doors.** Adm. James M. Loy, Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), today announced TSA has awarded reimbursement grants totaling \$100 million to 58 domestic air carriers for the direct cost of reinforcing cockpit doors. **This grant money is in addition to \$97 million for domestic carriers that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced on April 9 for the same purpose.** Following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Congress passed the Aviation and Transportation Security Act mandating the FAA to require passenger airplanes flying in the United States to have reinforced cockpit doors to prevent intruders from gaining access to the flight deck. **The airlines complied, first by strengthening cockpit doors as a short-term solution, and then by installing new, reinforced and ballistic resistant doors to meet the new standards. The mandate covered some 5,800 domestic aircraft and 4,200 foreign aircraft. This work was completed by the April 9, 2003 deadline.** "Over the past two years, the airline industry has made tremendous progress in enhancing aviation security," said Admiral Loy. "The reinforcing and hardening of cockpit doors is just one example of how the government and private industry have partnered in our efforts to keep the skies secure."

Source: <http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=247-09242003>

9. *September 24, Reuters* — **Runway at National airport blocked. The main runway at Washington's Reagan National airport was blocked for hours on Wednesday after the front landing gear of a jetliner collapsed after touchdown, stranding the Boeing 737 on the tarmac. United Airlines Flight 604 with 62 passengers and crew landed safely at 10:50 a.m., but then reported a landing gear problem, the Federal Aviation Administration said. Aviation officials said the nose gear's two wheels had fallen off the plane.** The airline would only say the aircraft had a landing gear problem. All 57 passengers and five crew members evacuated via emergency stairs and were bused to the terminal. No injuries were reported. The disabled aircraft was stranded nearly halfway down the airport's primary runway. The FAA said

it could take several hours to jack up the plane and tow it, and then the airport would have to determine whether the runway was damaged.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/personalfinance/retirement/newswire/2003/09/24/rtr1090624.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Agriculture Sector**

10. *September 24, Minnesota Ag Connection* — **Minnesota is Mycoplasma Synoviae and Gallisepticum free. After decades of testing and surveillance to eliminate Mycoplasma Synoviae (MS) and Mycoplasma Gallisepticum (MG) from poultry breeder flocks in Minnesota, the Board of Animal Health (BAH) Wednesday announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) has certified the state as an MS Clean State in turkeys and MG Clean State in meat-type chickens. Minnesota is the first state to receive such classifications.** MG infection, or chronic respiratory disease, was first recognized in the 1950s. MG is the most pathogenic and economically significant Mycoplasma pathogen of poultry. Official eradication programs began in Minnesota in the early 1960s. MS test and eradication programs began in the early 1980s. Classification as MG or MS Clean means the disease has not existed in Minnesota breeder flocks within the past 12 months. In addition, all breeder flocks and hatcheries in the state must be free from disease, be under official supervision of the BAH and only handle product that is MG or MS clean. This classification is a certification process that ensures disease-free Minnesota poult and chicks.

Source: <http://www.minnesotaagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=838&yr=2003>

11. *September 24, Crop Decisions* — **U.S. senator offers bill to limit packer-owned hogs.** The largest U.S. pork packers would have to go to the open market to buy at least half the animals they slaughter under legislation proposed by the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. **Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA), said the bill to limit the use of packer-owned hogs was an interim step toward the goal of banning meatpackers from competing with farmers in raising livestock. The Grassley bill would bar packers with slaughter capacity of more than 20 million hogs a year from killing more than 10 million of their own animals in a calendar year.** Grassley said he was not backing away from a proposal to ban packer ownership of livestock. But it might be easier to surmount parliamentary obstacles with the language to limit reliance on packer-held animals, he said. "It is important we sustain a place in the market for independent pork producers and family farmers," Grassley said.

Source: [http://www.cropdecisions.com/show\\_story.php?id=21432](http://www.cropdecisions.com/show_story.php?id=21432)

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## Food Sector

12. *September 24, just-food.com* — **Food industry unprepared for bioterrorism rule. Around 50 percent of U.S. food industry professionals do not know that all domestic and most foreign food manufacturing and distribution facilities must register with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) by December 12 of this year, as the FDA implements the Bioterrorism Act, while another 21 percent know about the requirement but have done nothing to prepare, according to a Food Institute survey.** The Food Institute said it administered the online survey to 1,292 food industry participants, and the Food Policy Institute at Rutgers University analysed the results. "There is a striking disparity between awareness and preparedness," said Dr. Calum Turvey, director of the Food Policy Institute. "Many food firms are aware of the regulations, however, have not done a great deal to prepare."

Source: [http://www.just-food.com/news\\_detail.asp?art=55465](http://www.just-food.com/news_detail.asp?art=55465)

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## Water Sector

13. *September 23, Associated Press* — **Suspicious devices discovered at water-bottling plant's pumping station. The FBI is investigating the discovery of several suspicious devices placed inside a Michigan water-bottling plant's pumping station.** A Michigan State Police bomb squad was among the emergency crews that responded to the scene on Monday. **Officials would not say whether the devices turned out to be some kind of explosives.** Ice Mountain workers conducting a regular maintenance check on Monday afternoon found a broken-out glass-block window at the station, company spokesperson Deborah Wudyka said. The station, which is in Martiny Township, pressurizes a 12-mile pipeline that carries water collected from four nearby wells to Ice Mountain's bottling plant near Stanwood. When workers looked through the broken window, they saw a box and several plastic bottles filled with liquid had been left inside. Wires connected the bottles to the box. **Water monitored at the bottling plant showed no signs of having been tampered with, and the company did not alter bottling operations or evacuate factory employees.**

Source: [http://www.mlive.com/newsflash/michigan/index.ssf/?newsflash/get\\_story.ssf?cgi-free/getstory\\_ssf.cgi?g8663\\_BC\\_MI--Plant-DevicesFoun&&news&newsflash-michigan](http://www.mlive.com/newsflash/michigan/index.ssf/?newsflash/get_story.ssf?cgi-free/getstory_ssf.cgi?g8663_BC_MI--Plant-DevicesFoun&&news&newsflash-michigan)

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## Public Health Sector

14. *September 24, University of South Florida* — **Nano-sized antibiotic delivery vehicles.** University of South Florida (USF) chemists have developed a better way of getting drugs to a target. **Using nanotechnology, antibiotics now can ride into bacteria cells on nano-sized spherical vehicles.** "This technology will afford many benefits," explains says Edward Turos, a chemistry professor at USF. "For example, patients battling infections may be treated with much smaller doses of drug, potentially reducing unwanted side effects, such as toxicity and allergic responses, as well as the onset of further drug resistance." The



team created nano-sized plastic spheres with drugs chemically bonded to their surface. The nanoballs allow the drug to be dissolved in water, improving performance. The balls are smaller than the bacteria cells and bacteria willingly eat them. Once inside the cell, the balls release high concentrations of the drug where it wreaks havoc on the cell. **"Many potentially valuable drugs that look promising are, unfortunately, not very soluble in water and their clinical uses are greatly restricted because they are unable to get into the bloodstream," said Turos. The new drug delivery vehicles that improve drug solubility may open the door to changes in medicine, particularly in the detection and treatment of infectious diseases.**

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2003/09/030924055708.htm>

15. *September 24, Mercury News* — **Research centers' security. Many of California's Bay Area research centers say they haven't tightened security since the August 28 bombing of Chiron, an East Bay biotechnology company.** Nonetheless, security guards patrol around the clock at the University of California–Berkeley's animal facilities. At San Jose State University, animals are kept in an unmarked building with keypad locks. Most of Stanford's animals live in an underground bunker. Several major life-sciences companies that use animal tests to develop new therapies declined to talk about their security measures. **The Bay Area Biosciences Center, a consortium of 200 biotech firms and research centers, soon plans to poll its members and perhaps convene a meeting to discuss security.** Researchers are especially concerned that the Animal Liberation Brigade, which claimed responsibility for the Chiron bombing, suggested it might target the homes of biotech workers. **In recent weeks, a chef, an apartment builder, and a sport-utility vehicle dealer in California have been the targets of arson and home vandalism attributed to environmental activists.**

Source: <http://www.bayarea.com/mld/mercurynews/news/6847510.htm>

16. *September 24, Washington Post* — **Officials urge wide use of flu vaccine. Government and private health officials called Tuesday for much wider use of the influenza vaccine.** On average, about 114,000 Americans are hospitalized each year with influenza or its complications, and about 36,000 people die, the director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Julie Gerberding, said. **Although more than 90 percent of the deaths are among the elderly, there are hints the viral illness may also be responsible for previously unrecognized severe illness in young people.** The CDC recommends that everyone older than 50 get a flu shot each winter, along with younger people with such illnesses as diabetes, asthma, chronic bronchitis, and HIV. Part of the agency's campaign this year is to urge that people who have contact with the chronically ill get vaccinated even if they themselves are not at high risk. **The flu season that has just ended in Australia, New Zealand, and other parts of the Southern Hemisphere was "moderately severe," said Walter Orenstein, head of the CDC's national immunization program. The disease in that region was dominated by a type of virus called influenza A (H3N2), which has historically produced higher mortality than other types.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A55375-2003Sep 23.html>

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## **Government Sector**

17.

*September 24, General Accounting Office* — **Report–GAO–03–926: Disaster Assistance: Information on FEMA's Post–9/11 Public Assistance to the New York City Area.** After the 9/11 disaster, the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works requested that GAO determine (1) what activities FEMA supported in the New York City area through its public assistance program after the terrorist attacks;(2) how the federal government's response to this terrorist event differed from FEMA's traditional approach to providing public assistance in past disasters; and (3) what implications FEMA's public assistance approach in the New York City area may have on the delivery of public assistance should other major terrorist attacks occur in the future. Among other things, GAO found that FEMA provided public assistance–related funding specifically directed by Congress that would not otherwise have been eligible for assistance, e.g., reimbursing costs of instructional time for students who lost school time after the terrorist attacks. **Key New York City officials said that the program needed major revisions, while FEMA officials said it worked well along with the congressional prerogative to provide additional assistance. Nevertheless, FEMA has begun to consider ways to redesign the program to make it better able to address all types and sizes of disasters, including terrorist attacks.** Highlights:  
<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d03926high.pdf>  
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-926>

18. *September 24, Associated Press* — **House approves spending bills on security. The House approved bills Wednesday covering spending for domestic and global security, including \$29.4 billion for the new Homeland Security Department and \$368 billion for Pentagon spending other than the war in Iraq.** Both measures passed with little opposition, although Democrats protested that the Homeland Security bill didn't go far enough to ensure the safety of cargo on passenger planes. After Senate action, the two bills – the products of House–Senate negotiations – would go to the president for his signature. They would be the first of 13 spending bills that Congress must pass every year to fund programs for the 2004 budget year that starts October 1. **The Homeland Security bill, passed 417–8, is the first for the new department formed last spring from the combination of 22 security–related agencies.** The funding, \$1 billion above what President Bush requested, includes some \$4.2 billion for first responder programs, \$9 billion for border protection and \$5.2 billion for the Transportation Security Agency and the Federal Air Marshal Program.  
Source: <http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/fortwayne/news/local/6850838.htm>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

19. *September 24, Reuters* — **Chinese police stage anti–terror drill. Hundreds of Chinese police gathered for anti–terror exercises on the same day China signed agreements with Russia and Central Asian countries to set in motion plans for a regional anti–terror centre.** Some 2,000 police from across China, including the capital Beijing and the southern boomtown of Shenzhen, took part in Tuesday's drills in remote northern Inner Mongolia, Xinhua news agency said. The participants performed a series of programs, combating terrorists who were trying to sneak into the Chinese territory, set off bombs, attack a motorcade, use chemical weapons, hold hostages and hijack an aircraft, Xinhua said, adding that it was the first such exercise to be held in Inner Mongolia. **On Tuesday, the Shanghai Cooperation**



**Organization (SCO) – comprising China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan – agreed to move ahead with long-standing plans for an anti-terror centre in the Uzbek capital of Tashkent**

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/PEK37116.htm>

20. *September 24, The Tennessean* — **Dozens evacuated after hazardous spill in Cumberland County. Dozens of families have been evacuated from their homes following a hazardous chemical spill from a tanker truck accident on a county road in the Fairfield Glade community about 8 a.m. Wednesday morning. The area is more than 120 miles east of Nashville, TN. The truck driver was injured in the accident, which also broke a main power service line, interrupting electrical service to the mostly retirement community for hours. The truck's load included four 3,500-pound cylinders containing sodium hydroxide, two of which were leaking and causing emergency workers the biggest concern, Crossville/Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency Director Keith Garrison said. Sodium hydroxide is one of the more popular caustic substances produced. Exposure symptoms can include respiratory problems, abdominal pain, hypertension, skin irritation and if in direct contact, burns. Also on the truck were 1,030 container of bisulfites, which can at high concentrations irritate the upper airways and can induce acute and chronic bronchitis, fluorosilicic, a corrosive that can cause blisters on the skin and respiratory problems, and 1,000-pound container of chlorine.**



Source: [http://www.tennessean.com/local/archives/03/09/39872624.shtml?Element\\_ID=39872624](http://www.tennessean.com/local/archives/03/09/39872624.shtml?Element_ID=39872624)

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## **Information and Telecommunications Sector**

21. *September 24, CBS News* — **Virus shuts down U.S. visa system. The U.S. State Department's electronic system for checking every visa applicant for terrorist or criminal history failed worldwide for several hours late Tuesday, September 23, because of the "Welchia" computer virus, leaving the U.S. government briefly unable to issue visas. The virus crippled the department's Consular Lookout and Support System, known as CLASS, which contains more than 12.8 million records from the FBI, the State Department and U.S. immigration, drug-enforcement and intelligence agencies. Among the names are those of at least 78,000 suspected terrorists. A spokesperson for the U.S. embassy in Seoul, South Korea, Maureen Cormack, said it was a "short outage" and "not a major problem." She said interviews for visa applicants continued but any decisions could not be made until the system was back up. "The Department of Homeland Security has warned that viruses are a threat to national security, and this is a good example," said CBS News Technical Consultant Larry Magid. "When they can get into vital State Department computer systems used for our security, it shows just how vulnerable we are."**

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/09/24/tech/main574860.shtml>

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 1 out of 4 <a href="https://gtoc.iss.net">https://gtoc.iss.net</a>	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 2 out of 4 <a href="http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/">http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/</a>
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
<b>Virus:</b>	#1 Virus in the United States: <b>WORMLOVGATE.G</b> Source: <a href="http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html">http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html</a> , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	135 (epmap), 80 (www), 137 (netbios-ns), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 445 (microsoft-ds), 111 (sunrpc), 139 (netbios-ssn), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 554 (rtsp), 27374 (SubSeven) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center

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## General Sector

22. *September 24, Reuters* — **U.S. tightens security at Guantanamo. The United States has tightened security at its military base in Cuba, where 680 al Qaeda and Taliban suspects are held, after a U.S. military chaplain and translator were arrested in a possible spy plot involving Syria, a top American general said on Wednesday.** Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace said U.S. intelligence was digging into the background of the two arrested men, one charged with espionage and passing secrets to Syria, but he declined to accuse Damascus of wrongdoing until the probe was complete. "We are very early in the stages of understanding what we've got," said Pace. "But just by virtue of the fact that we have a potential spy problem, it makes you go back and re-look at the way you do business and make modifications. And that's a healthy thing." **Pace spoke a day after the Pentagon announced that senior U.S. Airman Ahmad al Halabi was charged with 32 criminal counts, including espionage and aiding the enemy while working as a translator at the base.**

Source: [http://asia.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&story\\_ID=3500796](http://asia.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&story_ID=3500796)

23. *September 24, CNN* — **Thailand downplays possible al Qaeda plot. Responding to intelligence suggesting al Qaeda might try to target an Israeli airliner in or near Bangkok, Thai Army Intelligence sources say they are unaware of a specific plan to attack any airline. Security measures are, however, being implemented at Bangkok International Airport, which has been described by intelligence sources as "quite vulnerable."** Israeli television reported Tuesday that police in Thailand foiled an al Qaeda plot to launch an attack on an Israeli El Al airliner in Bangkok, but a U.S. official has downplayed the report. "The intelligence suggests the possibility. That threat information exists, but I would not go as far as saying there definitely was such a plot that was foiled," said a U.S. official. **According to the report, three months ago Thai police arrested a man at the airport who was seen filming around the El Al counter and that a plan to attack airline passengers was recovered**

**during a raid on the man's home.** According to the spokesman, the CIB knows of no al Qaeda plot directed at El Al. **The Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, which kicks off on October 19, is the biggest gathering of world leaders in the region this year. Presidents and prime ministers from 21 nations -- including the United States, China, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Australia and Malaysia -- will be attending.**

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/asiapcf/southeast/09/24/thailand.alqaeda/>

- 24. *September 23, New York Times* — Airman charged as spy for Syria at Guantánamo. An Air Force translator at an American prison camp for captured militants and suspected terrorists at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, has been charged with espionage and passing military secrets to Syria, the Pentagon said today.** The translator, Senior Airman Ahmad I. al-Halabi, faces more than 30 criminal charges, including accusations that he tried to slip prison maps, cell-block information, names of prisoners and messages from them to an agent of the Syrian government. If convicted of the spying charges, he could face the death penalty. A military lawyer for Airman al-Halabi, Maj. Kim E. London, disputed the military's accusations. "We don't believe we've seen sufficient evidence to support those charges," Major London said in a telephone interview tonight.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/09/24/national/24DETA.html>

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### **DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information**

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

**[DHS/IAIP Warnings](#)** – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

**[DHS/IAIP Publications](#)** – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

**[DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive](#)** – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

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Content and Suggestions: [nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov](mailto:nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov) or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at 703–883–6631

Subscription and Distribution Information: Send mail to [nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov](mailto:nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov) or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at 703–883–6631 for more information.

**Contact DHS/IAIP**

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